

*Saltonstall, Leverett*  
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SENATOR SALTONSTALL QUESTIONED ABOUT CIA

Guest: Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Mass.

Panel of reporters: George Herman, CBS News  
Samuel Schaffer, Newsweek  
Martin Agronsky, CBS News

The following was heard, in part:

MARTIN AGRONSKY: Senator, you're a member of the subcommittee of Senator McCarthy of Minnesota, and he seeks to investigate the influence of the CIA on foreign policies -- he feels that it is perhaps too much and it is harmful. How do you feel about this?

SENATOR SALTONSTALL: I'm very much against such an investigation, Martin, for this reason. We're the largest and most responsible free nation in the world. We know that there's got to be a certain amount of intelligence in other nations of the world, which is necessary for us to know. We know that it is being done on us here in the United States. Now you can't have an intelligence agency operated entirely in the public. For what reason -- for no other that we would lose some of our agents. We know that there are a certain number of them that are taken away from us every year -- not many we hope -- but that operation has got to be under cover.

Now from a congressional point of view, I'm on the subcommittee that has handled that ever since its inception -- in fact I was the acting chairman of the conference committee that adopted the Defense Department as a unit, and we can get any information from the CIA, under its leaders -- Dulles, McCone, and now Raborn, that we want to, and they're completely open. They'll give us anything we want, but we try to keep it secret. We have no reporter at those hearings, or anything else. We've got to operate that way, and I would be very much against an open investigation.

AGRONSKY: But, Senator, Senator McCarthy's concern is a

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different one. His feeling is that the CIA influences the conduct of foreign policy, and perhaps in a bad way. As for example there are many indications that a CIA evaluation resulted in the fiasco at the Bay of Pigs. That's what concerns Senator McCarthy.

SENATOR SALTONSTALL: Well, I don't agree with that, Martin. The CIA gathers facts, just like the Armed Forces sides in various embassies, just like the State Department, and those facts are all put together in one memorandum, and I think every day it's given to the President, and all our top leading officials. And the CIA is the whipping boy of a lot of these questions, because they know it can't answer, and furthermore we want to remember, that the Department of Defense can't carry on subversive warfare, as that term is used. That's got to be done by the CIA.

GEORGE HERMAN: Senator, one of your Republican colleagues, Bob Wilson of the Congressional Campaign committee says that President Johnson, going to Hawaii at this time, taking with him four Cabinet members and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is foolish and reckless. You've had some experience with this kind of operation. What's your opinion?

SALTONSTALL: I would not -- I have great respect for Bob Wilson. I wouldn't agree with him on that -- I think the way to get information is to go to see the people who can give it to you, and if President Johnson is going over to Honolulu to try to get the information first-hand -- as President of the United States, he could have those men come over here -- but it's better to go half way in this long trip, and meet them. And the only risk -- if it is a risk -- is of an airplane accident, and in these days the presidential planes, they've got as much security there as you and I have on the Washington streets. . .